

BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 12-18-2019

Chief Davidson opened the meeting at 0836.

ATTENDANCE: .

Berrien County Fire Chief's Association Attendance Sheet December 18th, 2019		
Print	Signature	Dept.
1. Mike Davidson	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	CJFD
2. Dave Adams	<i>Dave Adams</i>	BCA#1
3. Dave Fink	<i>Dave Fink</i>	TAFD
4. Larry Lamb	<i>Larry Lamb</i>	MFD
5. Frank Deibel	<i>Frank Deibel</i>	SARGENT
6. Leo Deibel	<i>Leo Deibel</i>	ACTED
7. Larry Kupper	<i>Larry Kupper</i>	BABCOA
8. Ted Chubb	<i>Ted Chubb</i>	ACTED
9. Jeremy Russell	<i>Jeremy Russell</i>	STPS
10. Bruce Schaefer	<i>Bruce Schaefer</i>	ISCFD
11. Dennis Schaefer	<i>Dennis Schaefer</i>	BC#11
12. Mike Sapp	<i>Mike Sapp</i>	BC#15
13. Dan Johnson	<i>Dan Johnson</i>	WCFD
14. Gerry Kibelton	<i>Gerry Kibelton</i>	S.I.C.T.F.D.
15. Bill Berghel	<i>Bill Berghel</i>	MAD#1
16. Bruce Gifford	<i>Bruce Gifford</i>	MFD
17. Paul Allen	<i>Paul Allen</i>	BC#10
18. James Pitt	<i>James Pitt</i>	WCFD
19. Mike Whit	<i>Mike Whit</i>	MFR#1
20. Dan Ottobrand	<i>Dan Ottobrand</i>	M.D.M.R.
21. Tim Russell	<i>Tim Russell</i>	Berrien-Twp
22. Kevin (not)	<i>Kevin (not)</i>	BC#11
23. Caitlin Sampell	<i>Caitlin Sampell</i>	BC#11
24.		

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported that he was finally successful in switching to an on-line banking platform which should help us to limit some future charges. Ending balance as of 1130-19 statement was \$3508.29. Motion, 2nd with all in favor.

MINUTES – Minutes from 10-16-19 Approved as presented. Motion, Second with all in Favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS –

PRESENTATION – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHERIFF- Merry Christmas

911 – Director Ages reported that the telephone upgrade is almost finished but still working out bugs. He is hopeful it will be completed by the end of the year. Several new dispatch personnel are in the training pipeline. Dave went into depth on the process and time it takes to develop a new dispatcher. It takes at least 6 months with a variety of in house and out of house programs. Many start as a call taker and eventually work their way to the dispatcher's positions. Call takers are usually tasked with validation of the address as it comes in. It is an important step based on all of the jurisdictions and response requirements that dispatch must consider to get the appropriate units to the scene.

Dave also discussed the 911 meeting in November where it was decided to move forward with the plan B option relating to the pagers. He cited the differences between the Berrien Springs multi-alarm fire where there were apparently disconnects between first arriving LE personnel on 800 and the Fire Resources that were on VHF. He compared it to a fire in New Buffalo recently with every unit being on 800. Thought details putting into perspective the size and scope of that event he offered that communications were much better. The group reportedly broke down facets of each call and reportedly found many benefits to total migration.

Dave reported on improvements being planned for in Watervliet to improve the northern dead spots as well as the meetings being held to work on the State Line deficiencies. He also laid out in detail where the \$230K was coming from. It originates from State MPSCS credits and that it isn't an unlimited pot nor should it be expected in future budgets. There are other hidden costs too. For example, a \$250 per department for templates as well as \$1500 for CAD upgrades. Once the pager grant is expended departments shouldn't expect future funding to purchase mobiles and portables. There is a small portion of the original 600 K from credits that will be used as a down payment for the Watervliet upgrade but even its not totally funded. Several members hoped that the

County Commission would consider additional partnership and funding for matches, etc. with the thought that these are improvements that are coming in many cases are not being driven by the local governments.

Dave has begun the process to rough in the console for the future 800 migration. He needs to know if there are separate paging groups needed or not needed in the new system. Specifically, if departments have a FIRE Tone and a different WATER Rescue Tone. Another Example could be an MFR tone or even a SIREN tone. Dave thought he had 6 Station Sirens still on the system. If that is the case contact Dave so they can be included or removed in the new console.

Dave did say that he has delayed the switchover for departments like Lake when they received their dual pagers until their mutual aid departments are capable of migrating. Once the Pager Grant rolls out department clusters could choose to migrate to 800 paging. Dave also added that Command should soon be run on 800 MHz and not on VHF. He was clear that VHF paging option will remain for the foreseeable future. He hoped that in areas with decent 800 coverage that communications should be improved.

Frank gave a detailed presentation on the proposed Basic Templet. He also had copies available. With the delivery date of 4-6 weeks for the new units the templet design needs to be completed right away. The January 15th Chiefs meeting will be exclusively dedicated to communications and templet development. Remember the meetings will all be in the AM. Short of saying it is a mandatory meeting, it is in every departments interest to have a representative at the meeting to assure a streamline process. Those not in attendance could be programmed with the default templet. Mike will contact Tetrad and request that they attend.

Since there are charges related to templet development It was Dave's first thought not to include an 800 templet in the G-5's that those departments will be purchasing. Dispatch is unable to tone out departments on both the 800 and the VHF spectrum. Additionally, only a single option available on the console can take away any chances of error. Frank proposed that we include the templets as it will be easier and cheaper in the long run. Dave reconsidered and the programming will include the 800 templets in all the units.

Frank pitched doing the tests on both spectrums so that performance of the 800 system could be gauged over time. He also discussed possibly putting together an Active911 account for Dispatch. Since all of our people are already subscribed the cost would be minimal. If we were to link this new group to an active 911 group that would be developed, members of the group could select appropriate responses in active to determine where they received the tone successfully.

A discussion relating to the Stateline Communication Efforts were also discussed. Larry asked if a plan had been developed to put the 50 agreed upon radios allowed to include the Indiana selected templet. No decisions have been made however the 50 available will go fast. Ron Bush is back soon from medical leave. Once he is back the hope is to bring many of the stakeholders together to discuss need. Larry asked to be in the discussion when the plan is developed.

DNR Ben Osterland gave a 10-minute presentation the Federal Excess Property Program and the DOD Firefighter Property Program. He will forward to Gerry Kabelman for distribution to the Chiefs. #

Funeral Protocol – Berrien.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC – Merry Christmas from Rocky.

TRAINING- Instructors will be meeting on Sunday to discuss the Counties Top 10 training requests for next year. Costs will be considered.

FAIR- Merry Christmas

HazMat- Merry Christmas.

BCFA – Gerry reported on one of the most successful auctions ever. Feedback from outside sources in attendance were impressed. Several in attendance stepped up to raise a total of \$2800. Thanks to everyone who attended. Gerry is also still looking for photos for the web.

EMS-

SMCAS – Merry Christmas

MEDIC- Merry Christmas.

MED Flight –none.

Dr. Beyers-NONE

Mi-TRT-5 – Allen Weich reported on an upcoming presentation of the capabilities and activation process of the program at Lake Twp on January 8th.

MABAS- Frank discussed upcoming Drills including Strike to POD, Task on Paper, Tanker on Paper then Tanker to POD drills being planned. Discussions on timeframe to revisit agreements being signed to every 3 years. Donated 800 radios being offered, 2 to each division. 50 other radios will be maintained with STATE MABAS for use at deployments. Motion, Second, with all in favor to accept the 2 radios with the Chiefs picking up the \$250 x 2 or \$500 for activation and maintenance for the units. The units will be at North Berrien so that they are available if needed for MABAS deployments. Frank also reported on 2 new divisions coming on line. Eaton and Gratiot Counties.

OLD BUSINESS -. New grant request for upcoming AFG was discussed. Bruce has consulted with experts that were able to determine that his last attempt received a 100% score. It seems clear that the only reason the grant wasn't successful is the format change removing the pier review instead turning to a response/\$ structure. Additionally, since we submitted in the Combination Fire Department Section we have a different pot of money we are competing for. Bruce recommends resubmitting the grant under a new department, one that would be classified as a Volunteer to give us better odds. We would need to update responses and adjustments for the pager grant already underway and it would be ready to go back out. Bruce will be working to find a new host department so we are ready to submit. A discussion to funding the match. Dave discussed the origination of the \$230 K that is being used now for the Pager Grant. It was from credits from the State from radio licenses. With us using the money for the pagers there is no current plan for addition funding in upcoming budgets. Several Chiefs felt strongly that we should still ask the Commission for funding assistance but we need to know going in that the locals will be responsible for the 20% match required under the grant. The timing seems to be lining up well however. With the pager grant spread over the next 2 budgets for locals we wouldn't expect to have to come up with match money until the 2021 budget. A motion, second with all in favor to move forward with the grant request with the local units funding the required match.

MFIRS NUMBERS HAVE TO REMAIN UP TO DATE

NEWBUSINESS-. Bruce is nearing the end of his Career and is looking for help with the Dispatch tray program. Mike and Dan will assist Bruce this year.

ELECTION of OFFICERS

Chief Davidson shared with the group that we needed to elect a slate of officers for 2020. He shared with the group that it was the desire of the Secretary Treasurer to find a replacement. Chief Davidson also shared that he was still willing to serve another year we were closing in on the end of his career as well. After reviewing the bylaws, Chief Davidson sought any nominations from the floor for Secretary Treasure. Frank DeLaTorre was nominated to serve in the position of Secretary Treasurer. He agreed and a motion and second with all in favor was cast. With no nominations from the floor for the position of Vice President or President a unanimous ballet was cast for Chief Davidson for President and Chief Mattix for Vice, Motion, second, with all in favor.

Next meeting will be January 15, 2020. Reminder: All regular meetings will now be held at 0830 hrs. on the 3rd Wednesday. * except November.

Chief's,

It has been my honor to serve this group over the past years from the front table. What we do every day in our communities is extremely important and I feel strongly that the coordination provided by this leadership body makes this effort better. Participation by our non-fire partners like the Sheriff, Rockey, Dave, Caitlin, Denny, Dave, Bill etc. have all contributed greatly to the effectiveness of this group. To our regular members who take the time out of their schedule to attend I am extremely grateful. My gratitude also goes out to Chief Chiarello for his department's hospitality over the years. Finally, serving along side Chief Davidson has been an absolute pleasure. His always positive demeanor and willingness to work with others, coupled with his dedication and passion for the role, has been a big influence on me and I'm sure you would agree, the course of this group and our County Fire Service as a whole. Finally, let me apologize for my occasionally drift from agreeability, I only did so with the feeling I was contributing to our overall success. I will continue to shout from the back of the room when appropriate. Thanks for putting up with me.

*RS one last time
Larry Lamb*